

MINUTES OF THE SD WEED & PEST CONTROL COMMISSION

Monday, September 17, 2012

Country Inn & Suites

Watertown, SD

Chairman Lynn Deibert called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM, September 17, 2012. Present were Chairman Deibert and Commissioners Ron Thyen, Floyd Muntefering, Vice-Chairman Dale Patterson, Winfred Bauer, SD Department of Agriculture representative Kevin Fridley; Game Fish & Parks representative Paul Coughlin; Office of School & Public Lands representative Mike Cornelison, SDSU representative Darrell Deneke, Association of County Commissioners representative Ronald Boone; and Commission Secretary Brenda Sievers. (Exhibit #1)

Mike Cornelison made a motion, seconded by Floyd Muntefering, to approve the agenda (Exhibit #2) as presented. Motion carried.

The minutes of the April 11, 2012, meeting was presented. Since there were no corrections, Chairman Deibert declared the minutes stand approved as printed.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Weed & Pest Coordinator – Darwin W. Kurtenbach

Darwin reported that Brenda Sievers has taken over as Secretary for the Weed and Pest Commission. LaDonna Holm took a position with Resource, Conservation and Forestry. He talked about the dry conditions.

Weed & Pest Supervisor – Ron Moehring

Ron stated that there are or are going to be several new supervisors around the state. Custer County has lost their weed supervisor and the County is considering doing away with the Weed Board. Another county is considering revamping their entire program, including contracting out the spraying and enforcements. Old weeds are being found in new places. Purple Loosestrife was found on an island at Farm Island Recreation Area. They sprayed about 2000 plants. When asked if he felt it was a new infestation or not, Ron stated that they do not feel that this infestation was a result of the flooding last year. It appears to have been there for a while. Ron talked about problems getting control of noxious weeds with a few agencies, but those agencies have now taken care of their weeds. Ron Boone requested a copy of the law that refers to County Commissioners hiring Weed Supervisors. He plans to visit with Commissioners at their meeting this week in Sioux Falls.

District 2 – Floyd Muntefering

Floyd reported that conditions in his area are very dry. There won't be much spraying done this fall because of the drought. Most will be waiting until next spring.

District 1 – Ron Thyen

Ron reported that conditions are dry and there won't be much spraying this fall.

District 4 – Dale Patterson

Dale reported that one good thing of having no rain, is having no grasshoppers. Since grasshoppers get moisture from plant tissue, the drought has prevented that. Fires are starting very easily, even from tractors and mowers. There is a lot of damage in the Black Hills from the Mountain Pine Beetle. He thinks officials are "way beyond the curve" on helping to prevent the Mountain Pine Beetle from spreading.

District At-Large – Win Bauer

Win reported that sawmills are backlogged on cutting because of the efforts to remove dead trees with Mountain Pine Beetle. Weeds are par for a dry year like this one. County commissioners need to be good protectors of their tax bases.

SD Association of County Commissioners – Ronald Boone

Ron stated there are lots of things to do. The problem with counties is economics. They think cutting the weed budget is the way to help out their county budgets. He felt the grant dollars are a way to get to the County Commissioners. Counties that cooperate should be given grant dollars. Those who don't should have the plug pulled.

District 3 – Lynn Deibert

Lynn talked about the dry conditions. He planted a cover crop in early August and it didn't come up.

SDSU – Darrell Deneke

Mike Moechnig wasn't able to attend the meeting due to a meeting in Wisconsin. They are managing with the current budget cuts. Things cost more. It will cost about \$3 per copy to print the upcoming 525N. They are looking at other outlets to get things printed, so they wouldn't have to print on campus. If you want to see the current 525 series, google SDSU Weeds, since they aren't available on the SDSU website right now. State Fair was very busy this year.

School & Public Lands – Mike Cornelison

Most contractors that School and Public Lands are working with are finding enough rosettes to fall spray. They are looking at a lot of shoreline issues with weeds. Mike feels that we need to be active as we can be now, because it will pay out benefits later. School and Public Lands pays for half of spraying on their ground. They also help with Prairie Dog control.

SD Game Fish & Parks – Paul Coughlin

GF&P is adjusting their fall control program if there isn't any re-growth. Paul feels there are lots of problems to come in the newly dried down areas. Aquatic nuisance species are becoming a bigger problem every year.

SD Department of Agriculture – Kevin Fridley

Kevin talked about the clean water act. He has heard nothing about the new federal reporting requirements for NPDES.

Bio-Control Mapping Update –Mike Stenson

Mike is planning to do a more comprehensive Bio-Control report at the District Meetings that will include maps. Areas of Yellow Toadflax that were renovated have had the Toadflax come back, but the bugs are there as well. We are finding the Leafy Spurge Oberea in many new areas. Tented releases were done with the Oberea to see how well they can reproduce. There were quite a few Clyclopheonus beetles found this year on the Knapweed. They were distributed to several areas. There have been quite a few Canada Thistle gall flies found. The leafy spurge beetle collections were average to below average. The northeastern part of the state had better collections than the other areas.

APHIS – Bruce Helbig

Bruce gave a grasshopper update and passed out a map to show grasshopper counts (Exhibit 3). The drought has curbed some of the fall grasshopper work. There has been some egg laying, but it may have been reduced because of the drought. They are hoping to reduce grasshoppers in the treated areas. \$3 per acre is where they need to be to keep costs down in the Reservation areas, but it is really tough to get applicators to spray and keep under that cost. Dale Patterson asked about getting the product to the ground. Bruce responded that there have been a few canopy problems but mostly there isn't a problem getting product to the ground.

Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Update – Dale Anderson

Dale reported that 80% of the gypsy moth traps have been collected. The traps put out for the Corn and Soybean Bundle survey are 90% collected. Japanese Beetle traps were put out in the SE part of the state. Counts are

increasing in the Sioux Falls area and they are finding the beetles in the country as well. Dale reported that they aren't finding any Japanese Beetles in soybean fields.

Association of SD County Weed & Pest Boards – Donovan Carpenter

Donavan will go over District Meetings and the Conference later in the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Dakotafest Update

Ron Moehring reported that attendance early in the day was good, but later in the day when it heated up there wasn't as good of a crowd. Floyd Muntefering thought that both the Association booth and the SDSU booth had good attendance when he was there. Darrell Deneke reported that a Rush Skeletonweed was brought in for identification.

Brown County Fair Update

Mike Stenson reported there were quite a few questions about yellow toadflax and on lawn weeds. There was an excellent turn out on Saturday at Brown County Fair. People were asking about fall thistle spraying.

State Fair Update

Darrell Deneke reported that a lot of people were looking at the Yellow Toadflax and Leafy Spurge plants. There were really good crowds for the State Fair this year. They again had many plants to look at including noxious and invasive plants.

NEW BUSINESS

CAPS 2013 Project Proposals

Dale reported that they have submitted the proposal for the 2013 projects and it will be dependent upon funding. They are planning to do a gypsy moth project in the NE part of the state in 2013. The Karnal Bunt survey is again being planned. This is done for export reasons and until quarantines are lifted in other countries, then we need to continue the survey. He is planning to do a small grain survey to ensure that export requirements are met for wheat. They are planning to look at two diseases and also for exotic pests. They are again planning to do bio-control work looking at toadflax and others. They may look into the alfalfa weevil which is a big pest issue and look at releases of a parasitoid to control the weevil.

2012 Weed & Pest District Meetings & 2013 Weed & Pest Conference – Topics / Speakers

Donavan Carpenter and Ron Moehring ran through a list of possible topics for District meetings as well as the 2013 Conference. The 2013 Weed & Pest Conference will be held in Huron on February 20, 21 & 22, 2013 at the Crossroads. The motel is full, but there are other places in Huron that attendees can stay. Possible topics included: Wildland Fire presenting info on being careful for fire conditions, Farm Bill, Aquatic Nuisance species, Dean Dayton with Legislative Audit, and the SD Bee Keepers. There have been concerns from the Bee Keepers on solid spraying of weeds. Counties were surveyed and only 13 counties currently solid spray. One comment was that many do the solid shoulder spray for not only weeds since it only covers 16 feet, but it is also to prevent accidents so drivers can see deer. One complaint that Ron Boone has heard is spraying ROWs and then being hayed right after. Darwin talked about only a few chemicals are not available for haying and grazing. Bob Feldhus said his county puts a notice in the paper that if you'd like to know what is being sprayed, to contact the office.

Weed & Pest District Meeting Schedule:

Nov. 7 – Rapid City

Nov. 8 – Pierre/Ft. Pierre

Nov. 9 – Stratford

Nov. 13 - Mitchell

Weed & Pest Grant Criteria / Proposals

Chairman Deibert reported that the Commission has had spending authority for \$450,000 the last several years for grants. For FY2014 that spending authority has been increased to \$650,000. Kevin Fridley gave an overview of the fund balances, explaining that we have product registrations coming in and grants going out.

Some suggestions that were brought up during the discussion were as follows:

- Give a good share of grant dollars to the counties, but require a County Commissioner to attend the Conference
- Competitive grants be a major part of the grant process
- Question if grant dollars are included in the County budget process
- Divide dollars equally between the counties

Discussion was held on sign-in sheet concerns and complaints received about them. Several suggestions were discussed including signing in at registration, sign-up sheet at the end of the day, sign-in before and after sessions, a test after sessions instead of a sign-in sheet, and having a sheet once in the morning and again at the end of the day.

A motion was made by Floyd Muntefering and seconded by Win Bauer, to send around the sign-up sheet once in the morning and once in the afternoon. Motion carried. Mike Cornelison & Ron Thyen opposed.

Dale Patterson made a motion, seconded by Mike Cornelison, to accept grant criteria the way it was last year with the following minor changes – omit “county extension educator” as a person to count for grant attendance requirements, and on the competitive grant – omit the statement “This grant is only available to South Dakota County Weed & Pest Programs”. This includes keeping the requirements as is, including the full contractual grant amount being awarded to counties that meet all requirements with 2 attendees at the Conference; and one half of the full amount of the contractual grant will be awarded if the county meets all the requirements but only has 1 attendee at the Conference. In the event that a certain county or counties doesn’t receive/qualify for funding, the remaining funds will be divided amongst the remaining counties that have met the requirements and to divide that funding equally to the nearest \$100, without exceeding spending authority. Any dollars not expended in the Competitive grant will be divided equally amongst the counties that do qualify for the contractual grant.

Discussion was held on ways to divide the grant dollars between competitive and contractual.

A motion was made by Dale Patterson, seconded by Mike Cornelison, to amend the previous motion to say Competitive grants at \$320,000 minus SDSU request – if approved, and to have contractual grants available at \$5000 per county x 66 counties = \$330,000. Motion carried.

The original motion was called as amended. Motion carried.

The following committee was formed to review the competitive grants and give a recommendation to the Commission at the February meeting: 2 commission representatives – Dale Patterson and Lynn Deibert, 1 agency representative – Paul Coughlin, 1 Department of Agriculture representative, and 1 SDSU representative.

Rules Hearing Clarification

Ron Moehring explained that it is in statute that we must have a rules hearing when adding weeds to the locally noxious weed list.

South Dakota Weed Book

Darrell Deneke brought up the possibility of printing a new South Dakota Weeds book, possibly adding a color picture to the current line drawings. Costs could be as low as \$1 to re-print the black and white book, or \$4 for a

color book. More information will be presented to the Commission at the next meeting. Kevin suggested it be available electronically and a possible phone app for this book as well. Bruce Helbig offered storage space at APHIS if there was a need for that after printing.

Chairman Deibert informed the group that he has been accepted to the SDARL program for this upcoming year and will not be able to attend the Commission Meeting or Weed & Pest Conference in February. Vice-Chairman Patterson will need to Chair the meeting, or someone would be appointed if he is unable to attend.

Tour

Ron Moehring gave an overview of the Weed & Pest Commission Tour that will happen on Tuesday, September 18, leaving the motel at 8 am, traveling toward Clear Lake area, then up toward the Milbank area, before coming back to Watertown.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

A motion was made by Floyd Muntefering, seconded by Dale Patterson, to pay for the meeting expenses, salary and per diem for this meeting. Motion carried.

Dale Patterson made a motion, seconded by Win Bauer, to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Deibert declared the meeting adjourned.

Brenda Sievers
Commission Secretary

Dale Patterson, Commission Vice-Chairman
(Approved Minutes)